**Glyceria fluitans**

**COMMON NAME**
floating sweetgrass

**FAMILY**
Poaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Glyceria fluitans (L.) R.Br.

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Exotic

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Grasses

**NVS CODE**
GLYFLU

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
Aquatic perennial emergent grass found on the margins of freshwaters on damp ground and swamps. It is characterised by its bright green leaf blades, and ability to form loose floating mats in shallow water.

**DISTRIBUTION**
Throughout New Zealand.

**HABITAT**
Aquatic in drains and other slow flowing waterbodies. Damp ground in swamps and pastures, drains and river banks.

**FEATURES**
Perennial marginal aquatic grass, loosely tufted or forming loose masses in shallow water. Culm (20)-45-75 cm. erect or spreading, sometimes prostrate or floating at base. Leaf blade bright green 10-23 cm, folded at first then becoming flat. Panicle (20)-30-55 cm.

**SIMILAR TAXA**
Very similar to Glyceria declinata. These two species can be distinguished when flowering as G. declinata has 3-5 distinct teeth on the lemma apex and the palea teeth exceed the lemma apex. G. fluitans has a rounded lemma and the palea does not exceed the lemma. G. maxima is a taller species, which has a distinct pointed ligule.

**FLOWERING**
Spring/summer.

**FLOWER COLOURS**
Green

**FRUITING**
late spring-autumn

**LIFE CYCLE**
Perennial. Seed and vegetative fragment spread by water movement. Reproduces by seed and rhizomes. Each flower head consists of an open panicle with 20-30 spikelets containing many seeds. Seed and stem fragments spread within catchment via water flow. Contaminated diggers, livestock, soil movement, dumped vegetation, eel nets boats and trailers all spread seed and rhizomes into new catchments.

**YEAR NATURALISED**
1872

**ORIGIN**
Europe and North America.
REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Pasture species, or contamination of other grass seed

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

TOLERANCES
Tolerant of very damp ground, physical damage, grazing, cold temperatures, and high nutrient levels. Intolerant of shade.

ETYMOLOGY
glyceria: From the Greek glykos 'sweet'.
fluitans: From the Greek fluito (floating)

ATTRIBUTION
Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

MORE INFORMATION